

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1-5. Cancelled

6. (Currently amended) A computer program product for use in conjunction with a distributed network comprising a resource requestor, at least one search broker and at least one resource provider, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium and a computer program mechanism embedded therein, the computer program mechanism comprising:

first instructions for sending a resource query executable by said resource requestor;

second instructions executable by said search broker for registering said resource provider, said registering includes storing a list of resource descriptions associated with said resource provider within a database;

third instructions executable by said search broker for selecting finding said resource provider matching said resource query upon comparing said resource query with said list of resource descriptions associated with the resource providers;

fourth instructions executable by said search broker for sending said resource query to said resource provider; and

fifth instructions executable by said resource provider for finding resources available associated with ~~matching~~ said resource query.

7. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 6 further comprising sixth instructions executable by said resource provider for sending search results to said resource requestor.

8. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 7 further comprising

seventh instructions executable by said resource provider for finding search brokers in said computer network.

9. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 8 further comprising

eight instructions executable by said resource provider for obtaining the a resource description.

10-16. Cancelled

17. (Currently amended) A computer program product for use in conjunction with a distributed network comprising a resource requestor, at least one search broker and at least one resource provider, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium and a computer program mechanism embedded therein, the computer program mechanism comprising:

first instructions for registering said resource provider with said search broker, said registering includes storing a list of resource descriptions matching said resource provider within a database;

second instructions for sending a resource query from said resource requestor to said search broker;

third instructions for sending said resource query from said search broker to said resource provider, wherein said sending includes selecting said resource provider upon comparing said resource query with said list of resource descriptions matching the resource providers;

fourth instructions for searching said resource provider for local resources based on said resource query; and

fifth instructions for sending search results from said resource provider to said resource requestor.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 17 ~~19~~ further comprising  
sixth ~~seventh~~ instructions for determining whether said resource provider contains a resource associated with ~~matching~~ said resource query.

21. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 17 ~~20~~ wherein said resource query comprises a keyword.

22. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 21 wherein said selecting further comprises ~~comprising eighth instructions for~~ selecting said resource provider based on said keyword of said resource query.

23. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 17 ~~22~~ further comprising sixth ~~ninth~~ instructions for ranking said search results at said resource requestor.

24-31. Cancelled

32. (Currently amended) A computer program product for use in conjunction with a distributed network comprising a resource requestor, a plurality of search brokers

and a plurality of resource providers, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium and a computer program mechanism embedded therein, the computer program mechanism comprising:

first instructions for registering said plurality of resource providers with said plurality of search brokers, said registering includes storing a list of resource descriptions associated with each of said resource providers within a database;

second instructions for sending a resource query from said resource requestor to at least a subset of said plurality of search brokers;

third instructions for sending said resource query from said subset of said plurality of search brokers to at least a subset of said plurality of resource providers, wherein said sending said resource query from said subset of said plurality of search brokers includes selecting said at least said subset of said resource providers from said list of resource descriptions associated with each resource provider;

fourth instructions for searching for local resources based on said resource query; and

fifth instructions for sending search results from said subset of said plurality of resource providers to said resource requestor.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 32 ~~34~~ further comprising

sixth ~~seventh~~ instructions for determining whether said subset of said plurality of resource providers contains a resource that matches said resource query.

36. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 32 ~~35~~

wherein said resource query comprises a keyword.

37. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 36 wherein said selecting further comprises ~~comprising eighth instructions for selecting a resource provider based on said keyword of said resource query.~~

38. (New) A system comprising:

a database; and

a search broker module to store a resource description associated with a resource provider within said database, the search broker to receive a resource query from a resource requester, the search broker to select the resource requestor having the resource description associated with the resource query, the search broker to send the resource query to the selected resource provider.

39. (New) The system of claim 38 wherein the search broker to receive the resource description from the resource provider.

40. (New) The system of claim 38 wherein the resource description includes a keyword associated with a resource.

41. (New) The system of claim 38 wherein the resource query includes a keyword associated with a resource.

42. (New) A computer-readable medium having instructions to cause a computer to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving a resource description associated with a resource provider;

receiving a resource query;

selecting a resource provider having the resource description associated with the

resource query; and

    sending the resource query to the selected resource provider.

43.     (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 42 wherein the resource description includes a keyword associated with a resource.

44.     (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 42 wherein each resource query includes a keyword associated with a resource.